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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/728,996	12/05/2003	Robert I. Clayton	27735.20	9112
27683	7590	09/25/2006	EXAMINER	
HAYNES AND BOONE, LLP 901 MAIN STREET, SUITE 3100 DALLAS, TX 75202				STEPHENSON, DANIEL P
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
				3672

DATE MAILED: 09/25/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/728,996	CLAYTON, ROBERT I.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Daniel P. Stephenson	3672	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE ____ MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 August 2006.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-12 and 14-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 5 and 6 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 14 and 19 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1,3,4,7-9,15,17,18 and 20 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 2,10-12 and 16 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 05 December 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1, 3, 4, 7-9, 15, 17, 18 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bodine '619 in view of Berryman. Bodine '619 (Figures 9) discloses an apparatus for imparting mechanical vibration on a down-hole drilling system. The body has ports configured to pass fluid through the body. There are first and second couplers configured to couple the body to the down-hole drilling system. There is a rotating member (22) located at least partially in the body and rotatable about an axis of rotation in response to flow of the fluid. Rotation of the rotating member generates mechanical vibration imparted on the down-hole drilling system. The rotating member (22) has an outer-spiraled geometry. The body (27) has an inner-spiraled geometry. The fluid flowing through the drill string imparts an external energy. The shaft and rotors (22) represent a converter located at least partially within the body and configured to convert the external energy into vibration energy. A vibrating member (27) imparts the vibration energy to the down-hole drilling member. The vibrating member vibrates in response to the vibration energy in a first direction substantially parallel with the axis of rotation and a second direction substantially orthogonal to the axis of rotation. The interior surface of the body has a lobed geometry having a number of lobes that is equal to the number of lobes on the exterior of the vibrating member. The vibrating member is integral to the body.

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Bodine '619 does not disclose that the lobes on the rotating member 22 are different than the lobes on the interior of the vibrating member (27). Berryman (fig. 5) discloses that motor (10) for a drill bit that has a rotor (21) and a stator (19). The lobes on the interior of the stator are greater than the lobes on the exterior of the rotor. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the rotor/stator arrangement of Berryman on the apparatus of Bodine '619. This would be done to generate more torque as taught by Berryman (col. 1 line 66- col. 2 line 14).

With regards to claim 18, in Fig. 10 of Bodine '619 there is disclosed an embodiment of the invention that uses an electrical motor to power the vibration mechanism. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the electric motor of one embodiment in another embodiment of Bodine '619. This would be done to provide alternate means of powering the vibrator downhole depending on what factors are present in such an environment.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 14 and 19 are allowed.
4. Claims 2, 10-12 and 16 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Worrall et al. shows similar features to the claimed invention.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniel P. Stephenson whose telephone number is (571) 272-7035. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 - 5:00 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David J. Bagnell can be reached on (571) 272-6999. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


David Bagnell
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3672

DPS 